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— Dum Da Da Da Da Da Da — Dum D

Two songsheets
Letter to editor of ~~the~~ Air Force Magazine, December 1982
(3 pages total)

Source: C. Bill Gertz collection

Binder #6

AIRMAIL

Best I
Cap 201

October Issue

I read with great interest your October '82 issue, which highlighted the Air Reserve Forces. Each article was well written and summarized the broad spectrum of activities successfully performed by the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. The only additional idea I feel was not touched on in the issue was the strong traditional/historical heritage that belongs to the "militia" forces (including AFRES) by being military units made up entirely of local citizens.

Being sixth-generation Pennsylvania militia myself, I am sensitive to a different perspective of the military not commonly understood by my Air Force counterparts. For more than two centuries . . . my family has served in a succession of local units. . . .

This tradition is not uncommon among reservists, and it has benefits that strengthen the military in ways not generally recognized outside of publications for the Guard or Reserve. One of these benefits is the strong personal attachments that are built up over the years among members of a local unit. Of my sixteen years of service, eight of which were enlisted, twelve years have been in the same squadron. This type of service provides an ideal opportunity for officers to know the people they manage, and vice versa.

Concurrently, many years in the same working environment with the same weapon systems sharpen skills to a greater degree than would be possible if frequent transfers were required. As for longevity, it is not unusual for a reservist to spend more than thirty years at the same base with the same unit.

Another benefit often overlooked is the frequency with which family members and relatives serve together in local units. There is no better retention incentive in the Regular Forces. Fathers, sons, daughters, wives, husbands, mothers, cousins, etc., often serve in the same units and can count on serving together throughout their careers. These attachments provide

the mortar for the bricks. Their influence is difficult to measure, but they are a positive factor for the nation's defense.

In my opinion, having worked both sides of the fence—enlisted and officer, active and reserve—the Air Reserve Forces provide the best value to the country that money can buy. They are dedicated, motivated, and highly reliable.

Thanks for the issue that presented our case.

Capt. Dennis B. Ardinger,
PaANG
Bridgeville, Pa.

Just a quick note to advise you that the October '82 issue finally gives the reserve components some decent recognition—a process that still has many of the die-hard Regulars uptight. I never appreciated the fact that it was an annual hassle to convince them that we could do a job if properly supported.

But, as Winston Churchill once observed, "Indifference to good people is the mark of a strong nation."

Col. Fred E. Bamberger,
USAF (Ret.)
Lauderdale Lakes, Fla.

With regard to your October '82 issue: Reservists also play a valuable role as Reserve Assistance Coordinators for Civil Air Patrol units across the country.

These Reservists assist CAP com-

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manders in operating local squadrons, help coordinate airlift, judge cadet competitions, and evaluate CAP performance in Air Force-authorized emergency services training activities. Many Reservists also fly with CAP crews on actual search-and-rescue missions.

Civil Air Patrol members appreciate the dedication and assistance of these Reserve officers and NCOs.

Capt. Eric Karnes, CAP
Charlotte, N. C.

The Vital Difference

Regarding the letter "Overemphasis on Pilots?" from James D. Bradley in the "Airmail" section of the October '82 issue (p. 12): Let him be mollified by the old Air Corps marching song that we learned as aviation cadets swinging along at the technical training command center at Boca Raton in 1943:

You've heard of the pilots so daring
As they gracefully soar
through the air,
If it weren't for the men in the hangar
They wouldn't be flying up there!
So here's to the men who maintain them,
The oilers and grease monkeys, too—
If a thing has two wings and an engine,
We'll fix it to fly in the blue!

This rollicking ballad in no way diminished the vital "flyboy" types we needed on Guam with the 16th Bomb Group, 315th Wing, Twentieth Air Force, in its missions against the Empire. It was Army Air Forces teamwork—as I am sure it is Air Force teamwork that makes the vital difference today.

(P.S.: Do any readers know the origins and other verses of this song?)

John Kennard
Milford, Conn.

Inexcusable?

Charles Corddry may be the dean of the Pentagon press corps, but his omission of the USAF contribution to

SQUADRONS ALL

(1st Verse)

Above the gleaming towers
We see the bombers roar
And hear the call of bugles
Re-echo down the shore.
With one ideal before us
And one ideal alone
We join a mighty chorus
The men of Boca Raton.

School Song (Pledge)

(1st Chorus)

Before the war's great heroes
Have heard the battles roar
The men who must precede them
Are the Army Air Corps.

(2nd Verse)

To Squadrons of the Air Corps
We chant our song anew
To men of fight and daring
We'll keep our pledges true.
To all the men before us
We raise our voices high
In neverending chorus
We praise them to the sky.

(2nd Chorus)

Of all this war's great heroes
Who've heard the battle roar
The men who do surpass them
Are the Army Air Corps.

Words by:-

A/C Kennard, J. E.

Tune of Grenadier Guards - Remember?

Boca Raton Fla.
AAFTTC
Cadet Center

5E

SQUADRON D

Lyrics to tune of 'McNAMARA'S BAND'

Oh, you've heard of all the squadrons' boys
That run from 'A to Z'
But here's the one that tops 'em all,
It's good old Squadron D

Oh remember too the generals from
Hannibal to Lee
But here's some boys who'll stop 'em all
The boys in Squadron D

Chorus

Oh the drums go bang, the cymbals clang, the
horns they blaze away
As Squadron D we'll lead the field as we go
on our way
Oh singing and marching we'll blaze a trail
that ne'er forgot shall be
A credit to the Air Corps - is good old
Squadron D

Hum the Remainder

We're men of wit and men of charm
And really rugged guys
But that is only natural
We're under Major Wise

We can march and sing to anything
We really are the best.

We stand alone at Boca Raton
Train. We'll pass the acid test!

*Yale University
AAF Tech
Train.*

Command

New Haven

CT

Chorus